

**FISCAL NOTE**  
**LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ANALYST ESTIMATE**

Updated to include Lancaster County's response.

<b>ESTIMATE OF FISCAL IMPACT – STATE AGENCIES</b> (See narrative for political subdivision estimates)				
	<b>FY 2015-16</b>		<b>FY 2016-17</b>	
	EXPENDITURES	REVENUE	EXPENDITURES	REVENUE
GENERAL FUNDS				
CASH FUNDS				
FEDERAL FUNDS				
OTHER FUNDS				
TOTAL FUNDS				

**Any Fiscal Notes received from state agencies and political subdivisions are attached following the Legislative Fiscal Analyst Estimate.**

This bill, as amended, would provide additional powers and duties for guardians ad litem. The bill has the emergency clause.

The only change to this fiscal note is to include the response from Lancaster County. Although the response shows it is from "Lancaster County", it appears that the specific department is the Public Defender's office. They state that changing visits from every 6 months to every 3 months will increase home visits. If the attorney must do everything instead of using a paralegal, this will increase costs. They estimates increased costs of \$39,261 to \$47,013 in FY16 (September 1, 2015 effective date), and \$117,900 to \$141,180 in FY17. See their attached response for details.

The Supreme Court states that the bill will increase court workload, but the fiscal impact is not expected to be significant.

The Foster Care Review Office and the Department of Health and Human Services both estimate no fiscal impact.

The Lancaster County Juvenile Court estimates an increase in costs of \$15,000 to \$20,000 each year. This is due to the increase in guardians ad litem visits from every 6 months to every 3 months.

Douglas County states this bill will have an unknown fiscal impact to the county.

Please complete ALL (5) blanks in the first three lines.

**2015**

**LB<sup>(1)</sup> 15, AM514**

**FISCAL NOTE**

State Agency OR Political Subdivision Name: <sup>(2)</sup>

Supreme Court

Prepared by: <sup>(3)</sup> Eric Asboe

Date Prepared: <sup>(4)</sup> 3/8/15

Phone: <sup>(5)</sup> 471-4138

ESTIMATE PROVIDED BY STATE AGENCY OR POLITICAL SUBDIVISION

	<u>FY 2015-16</u>		<u>FY 2016-17</u>	
	<u>EXPENDITURES</u>	<u>REVENUE</u>	<u>EXPENDITURES</u>	<u>REVENUE</u>
GENERAL FUNDS	_____	_____	_____	_____
CASH FUNDS	_____	_____	_____	_____
FEDERAL FUNDS	_____	_____	_____	_____
OTHER FUNDS	_____	_____	_____	_____
TOTAL FUNDS	=====	=====	=====	=====

Explanation of Estimate:

LB 15, as amended by AM514, requires guardian ad litem expenses be submitted to the court for approval. This will increase judicial and court staff workload, however, the fiscal impact is not estimated to be significant.

BREAKDOWN BY MAJOR OBJECTS OF EXPENDITURE

Personal Services:

<u>POSITION TITLE</u>	<u>NUMBER OF POSITIONS</u>		<u>2015-16</u>	<u>2016-17</u>
	<u>15-16</u>	<u>16-17</u>	<u>EXPENDITURES</u>	<u>EXPENDITURES</u>
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Benefits.....	_____	_____	_____	_____
Operating.....	_____	_____	_____	_____
Travel.....	_____	_____	_____	_____
Capital outlay.....	_____	_____	_____	_____
Aid.....	_____	_____	_____	_____
Capital improvements.....	_____	_____	_____	_____
TOTAL.....	_____	_____	_____	_____

Please complete ALL (5) blanks in the first three lines.

**2015**

**LB<sup>(1)</sup> 15, AM 514**

**FISCAL NOTE**

State Agency OR Political Subdivision Name: <sup>(2)</sup>

Foster Care Review Office – Agency 70

Prepared by: <sup>(3)</sup> Heidi Ore

Date Prepared: <sup>(4)</sup> 3/9/2015

Phone: <sup>(5)</sup> 1/4676

ESTIMATE PROVIDED BY STATE AGENCY OR POLITICAL SUBDIVISION

	<u>FY 2015-16</u>		<u>FY 2016-17</u>	
	<u>EXPENDITURES</u>	<u>REVENUE</u>	<u>EXPENDITURES</u>	<u>REVENUE</u>
GENERAL FUNDS	_____	_____	_____	_____
CASH FUNDS	_____	_____	_____	_____
FEDERAL FUNDS	_____	_____	_____	_____
OTHER FUNDS	_____	_____	_____	_____
TOTAL FUNDS	=====	=====	=====	=====

Explanation of Estimate:

No Fiscal Impact

BREAKDOWN BY MAJOR OBJECTS OF EXPENDITURE

Personal Services:

<u>POSITION TITLE</u>	<u>NUMBER OF POSITIONS</u>		<u>2015-16</u>	<u>2016-17</u>
	<u>15-16</u>	<u>16-17</u>	<u>EXPENDITURES</u>	<u>EXPENDITURES</u>
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Benefits.....			_____	_____
Operating.....			_____	_____
Travel.....			_____	_____
Capital outlay.....			_____	_____
Aid.....			_____	_____
Capital improvements.....			_____	_____
TOTAL.....			_____	_____

**ESTIMATE PROVIDED BY STATE AGENCY OR POLITICAL SUBDIVISION**

State Agency or Political Subdivision Name:(2) Department of Health and Human Services

Prepared by: (3) Mike Mason

Date Prepared:(4) 3-10-14

Phone: (5) 471-0676

	<u>FY 2015-2016</u>		<u>FY 2016-2017</u>	
	EXPENDITURES	REVENUE	EXPENDITURES	REVENUE
<b>GENERAL FUNDS</b>				
<b>CASH FUNDS</b>				
<b>FEDERAL FUNDS</b>				
<b>OTHER FUNDS</b>				
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>		\$0		\$0

Return by date specified or 72 hours prior to public hearing, whichever is earlier.

**Explanation of Estimate:**

There is no impact on the Department of Health and Human Services.

**MAJOR OBJECTS OF EXPENDITURE**

PERSONAL SERVICES:	POSITION TITLE	NUMBER OF POSITIONS		2015-2016	2016-2017
		15-16	16-17	EXPENDITURES	EXPENDITURES
Benefits.....					
Operating.....					
Travel.....					
Capital Outlay.....					
Aid.....					
Capital Improvements.....					
<b>TOTAL.....</b>				<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>

Please complete ALL (5) blanks in the first three lines.

**2015**

**LB<sup>(1)</sup> 15 and AM514 REVISED**

**FISCAL NOTE**

State Agency OR Political Subdivision Name: <sup>(2)</sup> Lancaster County Juvenile Court

Prepared by: <sup>(3)</sup> Theresa Emmert Date Prepared: <sup>(4)</sup> 3/6/15 Phone: <sup>(5)</sup> 402-441-5646

**ESTIMATE PROVIDED BY STATE AGENCY OR POLITICAL SUBDIVISION**

	<u>FY 2015-16</u>		<u>FY 2016-17</u>	
	<u>EXPENDITURES</u>	<u>REVENUE</u>	<u>EXPENDITURES</u>	<u>REVENUE</u>
GENERAL FUNDS	_____	_____	_____	_____
CASH FUNDS	_____	_____	_____	_____
FEDERAL FUNDS	_____	_____	_____	_____
OTHER FUNDS	_____	_____	_____	_____
TOTAL FUNDS	=====	=====	=====	=====

Explanation of Estimate:

An increase of GAL visits from every 6 months to every 3 months would increase attorney fee costs in Lancaster County Juvenile Court by approximately \$15,000 - \$20,000 each year.

**BREAKDOWN BY MAJOR OBJECTS OF EXPENDITURE**

Personal Services:

<u>POSITION TITLE</u>	<u>NUMBER OF POSITIONS</u>		<u>2015-16</u>	<u>2016-17</u>
	<u>15-16</u>	<u>16-17</u>	<u>EXPENDITURES</u>	<u>EXPENDITURES</u>
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Benefits.....			_____	_____
Operating.....			_____	_____
Travel.....			_____	_____
Capital outlay.....			_____	_____
Aid.....			_____	_____
Capital improvements.....			_____	_____
TOTAL.....			_____	_____

Please complete ALL (5) blanks in the first three lines.

2015

**LB15** Provide additional powers and duties for  
**AM514**<sup>(1)</sup> guardians ad litem

**FISCAL NOTE**

State Agency OR Political Subdivision Name: <sup>(2)</sup> DOUGLAS COUNTY, NEBRASKA

Prepared by: <sup>(3)</sup> MARCOS SAN MARTIN, Date LB15 2/13/15 Phone: 402.444.5116  
DOUGLAS COUNTY Prepared: <sup>(5)</sup>  
ADMINISTRATION <sup>(4)</sup> LB15, AM514 3/9/15

**ESTIMATE PROVIDED BY STATE AGENCY OR POLITICAL SUBDIVISION**

	<u>FY 2015-16</u>		<u>FY 2016-17</u>	
	<u>EXPENDITURES</u>	<u>REVENUE</u>	<u>EXPENDITURES</u>	<u>REVENUE</u>
GENERAL FUNDS	_____	_____	_____	_____
CASH FUNDS	_____	_____	_____	_____
FEDERAL FUNDS	_____	_____	_____	_____
OTHER FUNDS	_____	_____	_____	_____
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>N/A</u>	<u>N/A</u>	<u>N/A</u>	<u>N/A</u>

**Explanation of Estimate:**

UNKNOWN FISCAL IMPACT TO COUNTY; AMENDED BILL SPECIFIES THAT THE SUPREME COURT WILL PROMULGATE GAL GUIDELINES/DUTIES, THIS HAS THE POTENTIAL TO RESULT IN ADDITIONAL DUTIES OR REPORTS REQUIRED BY/FROM A GAL. ADDITIONAL GAL DUTIES AND/OR REPORTING MAY POTENTIALLY RESULT IN INCREASED COSTS TO THE COUNTY.

CURRENTLY, THE OVERALL COST TO DOUGLAS COUNTY OF THE GAL PROGRAM IS APPROXIMATELY \$1.6 MILLION ANNUALLY. THIS AMOUNT IS MADE UP OF NEARLY \$900,000 EACH YEAR IN CONTRACTED-GAL COSTS AND MORE THAN \$700,000 EACH YEAR IN COURT-APPOINTED GALS FOR CHILDREN COSTS.

COURT-APPOINTED GALS ACCOUNT FOR APPROXIMATELY 18% OF THE OVERALL GAL REPRESENTATION (18% COURT-APPOINTED GALS; 82% CONTRACTED-FOR GALS).

**BREAKDOWN BY MAJOR OBJECTS OF EXPENDITURE**

**Personal Services:**

<u>POSITION TITLE</u>	<u>NUMBER OF POSITIONS</u>		<u>2015-16</u>	<u>2016-17</u>
	<u>15-16</u>	<u>16-17</u>	<u>EXPENDITURES</u>	<u>EXPENDITURES</u>
Benefits.....	_____	_____	_____	_____
Operating.....	_____	_____	_____	_____
Travel.....	_____	_____	_____	_____
Capital outlay.....	_____	_____	_____	_____
Aid.....	_____	_____	_____	_____
Capital improvements.....	_____	_____	_____	_____
TOTAL.....	_____	_____	<u>N/A</u>	<u>N/A</u>

Please complete ALL (5) blanks in the first three lines.

**2015**

**LB<sup>(1)</sup> 15 AM514**

**FISCAL NOTE**

State Agency OR Political Subdivision Name: <sup>(2)</sup>

Lancaster County

Prepared by: <sup>(3)</sup> Joe Nigro

Date Prepared: <sup>(4)</sup> 3/18/2015

Phone: <sup>(5)</sup> (402)441-7631

**ESTIMATE PROVIDED BY STATE AGENCY OR POLITICAL SUBDIVISION**

	<u>FY 2015-16</u>		<u>FY 2016-17</u>	
	<u>EXPENDITURES</u>	<u>REVENUE</u>	<u>EXPENDITURES</u>	<u>REVENUE</u>
GENERAL FUNDS	117,900- 141,180			
CASH FUNDS				
FEDERAL FUNDS				
OTHER FUNDS				
TOTAL FUNDS	117,900- 141,180			

Explanation of Estimate: LB 15 requires home visits by the GAL every 3 months instead of the current requirement of every 6 months. AM514 makes the Supreme Court Guidelines enforceable rules requiring GALs to see their wards in every placement. Placements frequently change in less than 3 months, which will increase the number of home visits. AM514 requires that visits occur in the child's placement. This will also increase the number of home visits. Changing the Guidelines into rules would require GALs to delegate responsibilities. If the attorney must do everything instead of using a paralegal, including home visits, this will increase the cost.

**BREAKDOWN BY MAJOR OBJECTS OF EXPENDITURE**

Personal Services:

<u>POSITION TITLE</u>	<u>NUMBER OF POSITIONS</u>		<u>2015-16</u>	<u>2016-17</u>
	<u>15-16</u>	<u>16-17</u>	<u>EXPENDITURES</u>	<u>EXPENDITURES</u>
			39,260.70- 47,012.94	117,900- 141,180
Benefits.....				
Operating.....				
Travel.....				
Capital outlay.....				
Aid.....				
Capital improvements.....				
TOTAL.....			39260.70- 47,012.94	117,900- 141,180

This estimate is based upon an effective date of September 1, 2015.